

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02052 061223Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-20 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 DRC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-14 /121 W

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O 061115Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 392

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2052

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS CASC

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE STUDENTS IN SUKHOTHAI

FOLLOWING RECD FROM CHIANG MAI, SENT ACTION BANGKOK, SINGAPORE
DATED JANUARY 6 BEING RPTD FOR INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CHIANG MAI 70

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE STUDENTS IN SUKOTHAI

1. CASTRODALE REPORTS THAT GROUP APPEARED BEFORE SUKOTHAI
JUDGE AT ABOUT 10 0' CLOCK THIS MORNING. JUDGE ACCEPED THEIR
PLEA OF GUILTY AND NOTED THEIR PLEAS FOR MERCY. HE WROTE
VERDICT ON PIECE OF PAPER BUT REFUSED TO ANNOUNCE IT.
JUDGE SAID THAT CASE HAS ASSUMED INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND
CONSEQUENTLY HE MUST SHOW HIS VERDICT TO THE JUDICIAL
COMMISSIONER FOR REGION 6, WHO IS LOCATED 40 MILES AWAY IN
PHITSANULOK. REGION 6 COMMISSIONER WILL REVIEW THE VERDICT
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AND ANNOUNCE HIS DECISION AT 9:30 FEBRUARY 8.

2. SUKOTHAI JUDGE SAID THAT USUAL PROCEDURE IN CASE OF THIS NATURE INVOLVING FOREIGNERS IS TO REFUSE BAIL. HOWEVER, AS A FAVOR, HE WAS WILLING TO SET BAIL AT 100,000 BAHT PER STUDENT, OR 600,000 BAHT TOTAL (U.S. \$30,000).

3. CROUCH IS IN TOUCH WITH BANK IN BANGKOK AND HOPES TO HAVE BANK DRAFT AVAILABLE SOONEST. JUDGE HAS SAID THAT HE WILL ACCEPT BANK DRAFT. ACCORDING TO CASTRODALE, LORD MAYOR OF PHITSANULOK HAS DECLINED AT THIS STAGE TO STEP FORWARD.

4. COMMENT: POLITICS RATHER THAN MERITS OF CASE APPEAR TO BE GOVERNING FACTOR AT THIS STAGE. SUGGEST EMBASSY BANGKOK MIGHT WISH TO RAISE THIS MATTER SOONEST WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO INSURE AT LEAST THAT WHOLE AFFAIR NOT DRAG OUT BEYOND FRIDAY. REUTERS HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CROUCH AS HAS UPI WITH HIS OFFICE ON THIS MATTER. MONTGOMERY UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO02052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740253/aaaabxoz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <09-Aug-2002 by rowelle0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE STUDENTS IN SUKHOTHAI FOLLOWING RECD FROM CHIANG MAI, SENT ACTION BANGKOK, SINGAPORE
TAGS: CASC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005